Misc.

SAVE Native Women Act a no-brainer

By Tim Heydinger Southern Ute Tribal Court

Domestic violence in Indian Country is a problem of epidemic proportions.

The problem is exacerbated when the violence is committed by a non-Native American perpetrator. Tribes historically have no lence criminal jurisdiction" criminal jurisdiction over non-Natives.

State and federal authorities frequently cannot or do not get involved in criminal activity that occurs on a reservation, even when the perpetrator is non-Native. The result is that non-Native perpetrators frequently are not held accountable for their actions.

In October, Sen. Daniel Akaka, D.-Hawaii, introduced into the U.S. Senate the Stand Against Violence and Empower Native Women Act, or SAVE Native Women Act.

The proposed act would combat Indian country domestic violence in at least two ways: First, it would fund more services for the victims of domestic violence; and second, it would give tribes the opportunity to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Native Americans who commit acts of domestic violence on an Indian reservation.

Such "special domestic viowould apply not only in cases where a person batters their intimate partner, but also would apply when a person violates a protection order that was issued against them, regardless of what court may have issued the protection order.

The act would apply only when the alleged victim is a Native American. Otherwise, either the state or the federal government, but not the tribe, could prosecute the offender.

The proposed act would give tribes an invaluable tool to combat domestic violence.

All perpetrators of domestic violence should be held accountable for their actions. If the violence is perpetrated in Indian Country against a Native woman, then that perpetrator should be accountable to the tribe, regardless of the perpetrator's race.

Why should Native American perpetrators be prosecuted by the affected tribe, but not non-Native perpetrators?

The Senate is still considering the act, and it is a long way from becoming law.

Any bill that purports to give tribes criminal jurisdiction over non-Natives is bound to be met with resistance. The SAVE Native Women Act presumably will not be an exception, even though the jurisdiction it would give to Tribes over non-Natives would apply only in limited circumstances.

Allowing tribes to exercise criminal jurisdiction over persons who commit crimes on the reservation — even in limited circumstances — should be an

Low-cost mental health services to continue in Ignacio

By Tori Telep Ignacio Community Collaborative

The Ignacio Community Collaborative will continue to provide local, affordable access to mental health services, thanks to grants from the Colorado Health Foundation and Caring for Colorado.

The ICC has been helping increase access to mental health services locally since 2006. In rural areas, it's often difficult for people to seek treatment because of long travel distances, high costs, or lack of insurance.

The ICC's counselors are located in Ignacio, making it Department of Human Services, convenient for local residents. and Southern Ute Community Additionally, rates are considerably lower than services in meets every other month and Durango, and reduced fees are available for those who qualify. services locally, promote emo-The service also takes some tional wellness for young chilinsurance plans.

"I am a fair example of the workshops for the community. need for this program in our

community where poverty and abuse are deeply rooted," one client wrote about the ICC.

"Karen [an ICC therapist] has helped me overcome a very painful past," another client wrote. "[She] has the ability to connect with the Native American people and truly understands and helps us."

The ICC is a network of local services providers representing many agencies in the community including the Ignacio School District, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Peaceful Spirit, Southern Ute Montessori Head Start, Axis Health System, La Plata County Action Programs. The group works to sustain mental health dren, and provide trainings and

The ICC has two therapists,

one specializing in working with young children. Since the beginning of the project, more than 280 people have utilized the mental health service.

Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by investing in grants and initiatives to health-related nonprofits that focus on increasing the number of Coloradans with health insurance, ensuring they have access to quality, coordinated care, and encouraging healthy living.

Caring for Colorado has improved the lives of Coloradans by awarding more than \$50 million to nonprofit and government agencies, building health care capacity, strengthening the existing health care system and linking people to care. Its focus is on health care access for the uninsured and underserved statewide. Foundation initiatives include programs in oral health, public health and others.

SUPD toasts program grads

December 16, 2011





photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

The Southern Ute Police Department congratulated Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students who completed the "Protecting You, Protecting Me" program with cake on Friday, Dec. 2. Students received diplomas from law enforcement officials before celebrating with a slice of dessert.

After-school program slated for January; volunteers needed

Four days per week, we'll be working with a select group of students for the Ignacio Community Academic Assistance Collaboration (ICAAC). Right now, we really need volunteers to help out with tutoring, leading fun activities, or helping us provide incentives to the kids. If you think you'd like to learn more, please contact Cora at 970-563-0100 ext. 2200 or by email cnasset@southern-ute.nsn.us.





WOLF CREEK SKI AREA 12.2911



TRIBAL MEMBERS/DESCENDENTS ONLY **AGES 12-18 YEARS OLD**

NO REGISTRATION FEE!! LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 PARTICAPANTS

MUST BE EXPERIENCED SKIERS!!!

BASIC INFORMATION

-DROP OFF @ 8AM -DEPARTURE @ 8:30AM -RETURN AROUND 5PM -PICK UP NO LATER THAN 5:30PM **PARENT/GUARDIAN WILL NEED TO FILL OUT A RENTAL LIABILITY** **ONLY IF YOU NEED TO RENT EUIPMENT** NO LESSONS WILL BE PROVIDED

-REGISTER AT SUNUTE FRONT DESK

WHAT TO BRING -LUNCH/SNACKS -WATER BOTTLE -SPENDING \$

-SKI/WINTER ATTIRE -SKI EQUIPMENT(IF YOU HAVE IT)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS DECEMBER 16TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT SUSAN VELASQUEZ OR MCKEAN WALTON AT SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER 563-0214